

ABSTRACT

A storage area network that includes a monitoring component, wherein the monitoring component is capable of characterizing data flowing into or out of at least one port associated with a fiber channel director or switch so as to

5 enable an operator to ascertain some usable information regarding the characterized data and/or its impact on the network. In many embodiments, the monitoring component provides a visual or audible signal to the operator regarding a particular data component. The present invention is further directed to methods for monitoring a storage area network, in particular, at

10 least one port associated therewith.